

## [Mr. John Grosvenor]

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### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER F. W. Kaul & L. A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings Neb.

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mr. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Neb.
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 1938
3. Place of interview At home — several calls
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Modern, cozy, 5 room house, well painted and very neat yard. Rooms very clean. Some modern furniture. House and walls just filled with pictures, tables, clocks, fancy china and glassware covering the last sixty years. Mr. Grosvenor and wife live alone.

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER F. W. Kaul & L. A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Neb.

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. John Grosvenor, Hastings, Neb. 1404 W. [?]

## Library of Congress

1. Ancestry Scotch Irish
2. Place and date of birth Livingston County, Mo. Jan. 25, 1859
3. Family Wife, one adopted son
4. Place lived in, with dates Livingston County, Mo. [Logan?], Kans, Hastings Neb. does not remember dates
5. Education, with dates Livingston County, Mo. Country school grades
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Part of 1880 and of 1882, worked for railroad, balance of life farming, now retired
7. Special skills and interests Was excellent farmer and now owns several. Delights in gardening several lots, always gets results far above neighbors.
8. Community and religious activities Hasn't missed a day in many years of reading a chapter from the Bible. Member of First Christian Church.
9. Description of informant Rather tall, slightly stooped. Hard of hearing. Mentally alert, friendly. Very active, health fair to good. Always has worked hard.
10. Other points gained in interview This man still owns the farm he homesteaded and several adjoining farms near Logan, Kans. Mentioned the cottonwood seedlings he planted. No bigger around than a finger. How many of them, you can't put your arms around.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER F. W. Kaul & L. A. Rollins ADDRESS Hastings Neb.

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DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. John Grosvenor, 1404 W. [6th?] St. Hastings

The New Railroad [??]

[?]In the year 1880, I was hunting a job and after dinner on my father's farm, 4 miles north of Logan, Kans, I walked 18 miles and struck a job and earned 50¢ late that afternoon finishing digging out a cellar. I had left home with 75¢.

Before I went to bed that night, I had struck a job for as long as I wanted it on the Central Missouri Pacific Railroad, for a \$1 a day and pay my own board. They had just completed the railroad and I went to work on Wednesday. The first regular train to go thru was on Saturday night.

Before I went to bed that night, I rented a house and sent word to my wife, would be after her on the coming of Sunday. I worked to "Saturday" night, then walked back 18 miles after I done the days work on the section. Come back to my work on Sunday. Everything we had in one wagon. Went to work Monday morning.

We all worked 10 hours a day and they had to be 10 big ones. I worked 6 months and as my wife and I has a homestead, we had to return back to it. The law-we had to stay so many nights for so many months in order to hold the homestead or somebody else might take it.

I had to work out like on the railroad in order to get a stake and buy food."

Early Day Railroading

## Library of Congress

"In 1882, I started working again on the railroad, the Central Missouri Pacific, April 1st., and received \$1.10 a day. Same ten hours. It was a very wet year. Very heavy rains. Washouts were very common.

Every big rain, when a train came along our section, we had to have all hands there. Then push the handcar along in front of the train. The train of course just barely creeping along. We had a flag to wave it we run into a real soft spot or a washout. For miles of this, there was an average of 1 1/2 feet of water covering the tracks.

At night we had to do the same thing but used a lantern. The country was just being developed around there, Logan, Kansas and west. Lots of people and much freight moving in.

Finally after a steady 3 day and nights of rain, over 3 miles of track washed out. We got a big crew and for almost 4 days and 4 nights in steady rain, we relaid the track. The track and places we had to work was all the way from 1 1/2 feet to over a man's head deep. It was just a sea of water everywhere.

Tracks were jacked up. Timbers, lumber, poles, iron, anything and everything was brought into use to fix the track up, so the light trains in use then could creep thru.

[We had?] no raincoat only boots. We were soaked thru. Food was short. We finally got home. Many of the men were just dead on their feet and it was some job to wake them up.

We got time and one half at night working and that month of nearly steady rain, I received almost double my regular wages.

Oh yes, for some reason ducks and frogs of all kinds by the millions came to the track and staid stad. The noise was constantly deafening. Some [of?] the men were hard of hearing for many weeks."